

BEAN AND GRAIN DEALERS MEET

100 Members of Central Michigan Organization Attend Meeting

BANQUET AT WRIGHT HOUSE

Quality of Grain Low; Yield Biggest in History; Beans Reported Very Poor Crop

The Annual Get-Together of the Central Michigan Grain and Bean Jobbers' Association was held in this city, Friday, September 2nd, with a splendid attendance and a fine enthusiasm manifest during all the sessions. Despite the gloom evident over the grain and particularly over the bean situation throughout this state and middle west, the jobbers did not let this mar the pleasure of their annual roundup. The morning session was postponed until the afternoon because a large number of grain and bean men could not be present until then.

By twelve o'clock over a hundred men and their wives and friends gathered at the Wright House for a social time until dinner. At one fifteen the banquet hall was opened and the guests took their places. Mine Host and Hostess Mr. and Mrs. Brearly quite outdid themselves in the preparation of this banquet and many were the compliments which the splendid spread elicited. The following was the menu:

Vegetable Soup
Celery
Sliced Tomatoes
Premium Wafers
Baked Lake Trout with Saratoga Chips
Roast Veal with Dressing and Brown Sauce
Mashed Potatoes
Corn on Cob
Cabbage Salad
Salted Wafers
White Bread and Brown Bread
Apple Pie A La Mode
Assorted Fruit
Tea
Coffee

After the few scattered crumbs which had been left had been cleared away, several of the visitors were called upon for remarks. Manager Will Griffin of the Alma Grain & Lumber Company introduced the speakers with well chosen and witty remarks. Interspersed with the brief talks and toasts were some unusually fine musical selections by Mrs. Edward Mey, Mr. Charles Button and the Owosso four piece orchestra. The former endeavored herself to the heart of the convention by two very beautiful solos. They provoked long continued and enthusiastic applause. Mr. Button sang a solo and gave a whistling solo also. This made a big "hit" with the banqueters.

Mayor Brainerd welcomed the banqueters in behalf of the citizens. Just before the members and their wives were called to the banquet hall the Alma Fire Department made a run from the City Hall to Prospect avenue.

Following the banquet the ladies were taken in cars to the Republic Motor Truck Company through the courtesy of George Moore. They were shown through the factory and from there taken to the Masonic Home, Mrs. Francis King's gardens and other interesting places in the city. In the meantime the men gathered at the City Hall where they convened in business session. Short talks were made by jobbers and by men representing the terminal concerns at Detroit and Toledo. Samples of grain were on exhibition and the machine for making moisture tests of grain. The small jobbers proposed to the visitors from Detroit and Toledo, several questions concerning the proper classifications of grains and were made clear on these subjects. Answers to these questions indicated that the quality of Michigan grains, particularly wheat is much higher than that of the states to the south of us. But it also revealed the discouraging fact that though wheat acreage is larger than usual, the quality is only about seventy five per cent normal. The heavy frosts and rust have conspired nearly to ruin the crop.

Ten new members were taken into the organization. Later the election of officers was held and the following men were chosen. President, R. A. Law, Freeland; First Vice President, E. Mansfield, Remus; Second Vice President, C. Estie, Shepherd; Secretary, P. L. Perkins, Merrill; Treasurer, H. E. Chatterton, Mt. Pleasant; Directors, Will Biles, Saginaw; J. W. Fate, Blanchard; Henry Kennett, North Star.

Messrs. Eckert and Benedict and wives attended the fair at Mt. Pleasant, Thursday.

FIRE IN EMERSON TOWNSHIP

Shortly after nine o'clock Saturday evening the barn belonging to Wm. Liestman, two miles north and two miles east of Ithaca, burned to the ground with its contents consisting of about 20 tons of hay, harness etc. There were three horses in the barn at the time, two of which broke loose and got away. One of them burned badly about the head and neck. The third one burned to death.

A silo and a granary standing near with 1000 bushels of oats and 150 bushels of wheat and about \$500 worth of tools, two straw stacks and some chickens were burned. Mr. Liestman was in Ithaca at the time. The children were in bed. Mrs. Liestman sat reading when Arthur Daymon called by telephone and informed them of the fire. Two years ago this barn burned in about the same manner. The origin of this fire is unknown unless caused by combustion or by tramps. The barn was insured in the Michigan Mutual for \$1000. Mr. and Mrs. Liestman with their eight children returned home only last week from a visit with relatives in Indiana and Illinois. They motored through.

SUFFERS BAD DEATH BY FIRE

Mrs. Charles Oliver Dies From Burns Received By Lamp Explosion

In attempting to extinguish the flames from a burning kerosene lamp last Friday evening, Mrs. Charles Oliver, twenty four years old and mother of two little children was so badly burned that she died from her injuries Monday morning at one o'clock in Brainerd hospital, after suffering agonies of pain for which death came as a relief.

The terrible accident happened about nine o'clock Friday evening when the mother was caring for her fourteen months old child. The lamp which was on the table in the bedroom began to flicker, little flames shooting up. Mrs. Oliver, somewhat frightened, took it from the table hastily and set it on the floor in the kitchen. The floor of the kitchen is two steps lower than the floor in the bedroom so that the effects of the subsequent explosion were even worse than they would have been otherwise. Becoming quite agitated because the flames continued to shoot higher she grabbed a basin of water and threw the basin and contents over the lamp. The explosion immediately occurred. The burning oil set fire to her clothing and before she could make a move her clothes became a burning mass. She rushed from her house to the home of her cousin, Mrs. Joseph Sartor Jr., but in her mad frenzy to free herself from the burning torment she rushed back to her own house and started to run around behind it. She then threw herself to the ground and rolled about to extinguish the flames. By this time neighbors had hastened to the scene. Mrs. Joseph Ray and Mrs. Mizer who live across the road from the unfortunate woman's home secured a carpet and wrapped it around her body which had by this time become a human torch. Nearly mad by the awful pain she rose from the ground and rushing into the house buried herself in the bed clothing. A doctor was called and for five hours he did everything in his power to alleviate the pain. At least one half the skin of her body had been burned off and the greatest hope of the doctor was to stop the pain somewhat before death should come. During the night she was taken to Brainerd hospital.

The explosion of the lamp caused a slight fire in the bedroom and the fire alarm was sent in at nine thirty. Though the house was filled by smoke there was no serious financial loss. The deceased leaves a husband Charles Oliver, who is employed at the Michigan Sugar Plant, a mother and two children. These unfortunate a little girl Nettie aged fourteen months and a boy, Myron, aged three years will probably be taken care of by relatives of whom she had a large number residing in and near Alma. Her maiden name was Stella Merchant. She has been a resident of Alma, all her life and was married to Charles Oliver, about four years ago.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

List of marriage licenses issued during the week ending September 4th 1915.

Frank Byers, age 23, Hamilton, Mary Andrew, age 18, Hamilton; Gustav Timm, age 31, Elba; Laura Slusser, aged 30, Elba; Fred Billings, age 22, St. Louis, Cleo Roth, age 19, Riverdale; George W. Fink, age 21, Alma Edith McIntosh, age 20, Alma; Flor Horvath, age 40, North Star, Fannie Gregor, age 24, North Star.

C. L. DELAVAN SELLS STORE

Prominent Charlotte Merchant Buys Oldest Business House in Alma

W. C. PROUD IS NEW OWNER

Alma's First Mayor Secures Worthy Successor for Dry Goods and Grocery Trade

Alma's oldest firm will change hands this week, or just as soon as the inventory reveals the true valuation of the stock, and Charles L. Delavan, for forty five years one of the most prominent merchants in central Michigan, will retire from the business with which he has been connected during that time. W. S. Proud of Charlotte, a merchant of similar high reputation and progressiveness has purchased the dry goods and grocery stock of Mr. Delavan and will rent the store.

H. A. Delavan, the father of Charles L. Delavan moved from Jonesville, Michigan, to Alma, with his family in October, 1870 while Alma was in her swaddling clothes. With his brother George H. Delavan and his father they carried on the business of the firm of H. A. Delavan & Co. However, the activities of this firm were not confined to the grocery and clothing business for they bought and shipped grain on a large scale. The father continued in active business until within a few years of his death which occurred September fifth 1907.

Mr. Delavan was united in marriage at Chelsea, Michigan, to Miss Belle C. Tuttle, October 21, 1885. Three children have been born to the union Paul, Carolyn and Miss Marjorie. Throughout his long business career Mr. Delavan has been promptly identified with the civic affairs of Alma. For several years he was a member of the village council, clerk and treasurer of Pine River township. He was also clerk of Arcadia township and for seven years supervisor of Arcadia township. Upon the incorporation of Alma as a city in 1905, Mr. Delavan was honored by the election as the first mayor of the city. He was reelected in 1906. This is a fine proof of the splendid confidence which his town fellow citizens have in him.

In business he has prospered during his forty five years of labor, though his devotion and ambition for his children have over-ruled any personal ambitions he might have entertained for financial gains. All three of the children are graduates of the University of Michigan where they have attained the highest honors at the gift of the University officials.

There are three buildings standing in Alma now which were standing when Mr. Delavan came to Alma, his own store and the store buildings occupied by Mr. Ellison and Mr. L. N. Baker respectively. Mr. Ellison came to Alma just one year after Mr. Delavan.

His successor in the grocery and dry goods business has been in the dry goods trade for ten years. His brother-in-law is C. E. Hagen of Mt. Pleasant a well known merchant who conducts one of the largest stores in central Michigan.

Mr. Proud will purchase a much larger stock and a new line as well. The store will be closed up for two weeks while the inventory is being taken.

Mr. Proud is a widower and has three children, aged ten, seven and nine respectively. He will move here with his family of children immediately.

LAWRENCE ELLISON IN AUTO BUSINESS

Lawrence Ellison, who has assisted his brother Lloyd in the grocery store for the past few years, has taken the agency for the Dodge automobile in Alma and vicinity and will handle that car in the future.

Though his plans have not been perfected as yet Mr. Ellison expects to build a garage on the corner of Park and Superior streets next spring.

He has had a wide business experience and having secured an unusually fine car to handle he should enjoy a fine business in the future. He has already placed with his company an order for fifty cars for the coming year.

Tom Bates of the Republic Motor Truck Company spent from Friday until Tuesday at his home in Portland, Michigan.

TWO NEW PROFESSORS AT COLLEGE

The Board of Trustees at their meeting yesterday afternoon hired Rev. Charles D. Brokenshire of Springfield, Mass., instructor in Biblical literature for the coming year. He will succeed Rev. W. H. Mason, of this city who has charge of that department last year in lieu of a regular professor.

The Board also hired Charles A. Maney of Williams Bay, Wis., as instructor in physics. He will succeed L. I. Zimmerman.

The former is a graduate of Marietta College, and Princeton Seminary. The latter is a 1913 graduate of the University of Minnesota and took postgraduate work in the University of Chicago. He taught for a semester in Macalester College and since August 1914, has been computer and graduate student at the Yerkes Observatory.

ASTOR SHOW SATURDAY

The meeting of the Garden Club will be held Saturday, September 11, at the home of Mrs. King. In connection will be held an informal Astor show.

CLASS I
Best Aster of any one variety.
CLASS II
Best Collection.
CLASS III
Best arrangement with other flowers.

Mrs. E. T. Lamb, Secretary.

W. C. T. U. CONVENTION IN ALMA

Splendid Program Arranged For Annual Gathering of Anti Liquor Forces

The Thirty-fifth Annual Convention of the Eighth District W. C. T. U. will be held in the Presbyterian church, Alma, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, September 14th, 15th and 16th, 1915, beginning at 2:00 o'clock on Tuesday.

PROGRAM
Tuesday, 2:00 p.m.

Music.
Consecration Service. "Come ye apart a little while"
Roll Call of Officers and Superintendents.

Response....A favorite Bible text.
Seating of delegates by counties.
Apportioning of committees.
The work of the year....Mrs. Edna Fuller, Acting Cor Sec.

Music.
Institute Hour....Conducted by Mrs. F. B. Perkins, State Supt.

Music.
Superintendents' Report, 5 min. each
Discussion.
Memorial Service....Mrs. Grace Sibley, Breckenridge

Adjournment.

Executive Board Meeting
Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

Hymn....Congregation
Devotions....Rev. J. W. Priest
Music....Male Quartet

Words of Greeting from....
The City....Dr. Brainerd, Mayor
The Churches....Rev. W. H. Mason

Solo....Mrs. McKinnie
The Schools....A. F. Schultz, Supt.
The Union....Nellie Fleming

Solo....Miss Mabelle Mudge, St. Louis
Response....Mrs. M. Lamoreaux, Clare

Selection....Male Quartet
Our Work....Mrs. Norma F. Mudge

Hymn....Congregation
Collection. Announcements. Benediction.

Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.

Music.
Devotions.

Music.
Reading Journal.

County Presidents' Reports.
Practical Points.

Solo....Mrs. Joe McKenzie
Institute Hour....Mrs. F. B. Perkins

Report of Credentials Committee.
Election of Officers and Delegate to National Convention.

Miscellaneous Business.
Adjournment. Noon Prayer.

Wednesday, 1:30 p.m.

Music.
Bible Reading....Mrs. Edna Fuller, Farwell.

Music.
Reading Journal.

Treasurer's Report....Mrs. Etta Killian Carland.

Auditor's Report.
Paper, Temperance and Missions, Mrs. Guy Groom, Saginaw

Music.
Responsive Service—Why we wear the White Ribbon.

Original Poem....Mrs. Effie DeVost, Owosso.

Institute Hour....Mrs. F. B. Perkins
Solo....Mrs. Edna Fuller

Paper, Women of the Bible....Mrs. S. B. Ford, St. Louis

Miscellaneous Business.
Adjournment.

Executive Board Meeting
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

Organ Prelude....Prof. J. T. Ewing
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PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPENED TUESDAY

Attendance Figures Show Few Less Students Than 1914-15 Record Year

TO GIVE AGRICULTURE COURSE

Department is Established For Abnormal and Backward Children in Manual Training Room

With a slightly decreased enrollment, Alma's public schools began their year's work Tuesday morning with excellent prospects for a very successful year. By Wednesday noon eight hundred ten had entered. It was hardly to be expected that this year's enrollment would match the unusually large enrollment of last year which was a ten percent increase over the year before. The redeeming feature of it is that it will facilitate and greatly assist the efficiency of the whole system. Had a similar increase marked the enrollment of this year more teachers and further room would have been necessary.

The most noticeable decrease was in the High School proper which had received one hundred eighty nine during the first day and a half. Without a doubt this will be increased by twenty five more during the next two or three weeks. One of the marked features of the enrollment in the High School is the large percentage of foreign students. Between forty and fifty per cent hail from the rural districts about Alma and the small towns nearby. Breckenridge, located twelve miles east of this city, sends over a large number of High School students.

The Union School of which Miss Dunlap is principal, has three hundred ten pupils, while the ward school of which Miss Annette McLaren is principal has just exactly one more pupil. One fourth of the students in Alma's public schools are in the High School and three fourths in the lower grades.

An attractive course has been established in the manual training department with Mr. Floyd Maxwell as the instructor. A complete five period a week course will be given in agriculture throughout the year. Among the branches to be taken up during the year's course are: Selections and Care of Seed Corn, Soil Formation, Care of Stock, Tree Spraying, prevention of Crop Diseases, Care of Milk etc. In the connection with the latter subject a machine for testing milk will be installed in the manual training room and daily tests will be made. Prof. Maxwell is well equipped to teach this course as he has completed the full course given at Mt. Pleasant Normal. Between fifteen and twenty have already enrolled. It is the only agricultural course in the schools of the county.

An innovation of signal importance has been made which should have a distinct influence upon the trend of education in the city is the establishment of a department for the classification and training of abnormal children. This will also be taken care of by Prof. Maxwell. Children who are unusually backward or too old for the grade in which they are placed will be taken in the new department and special attention will be paid to their cases. Their mental or perhaps physical weakness will be noted more easily and special training will be given. Nine pupils have already enrolled in this department.

Some of our figures in the story of the public schools given last week were incorrect. Supt. Schultz has given us the following correct figures of enrollment for last year: High School 229, primary 439, Grammar 327, while there were but eight instead of nine teachers in the Union School building last year.

High School

Seniors 41, Juniors 42, Sophomores 48, Freshmen 58—Total 189.

Union School

7th and 8th grades 126, 6 A 33, 6 B 35, 5 A 39, 5 B 38, 4 A 39—Total 310.

Ward School

4 B 40, 3rd 45, 2 A 33, 2 B 34, 1 A 29, 1 B-B Sub primary 41, A Sub primary 33, Kindergarten 56—Total 311.

FINED FOR ASSAULT AND BATTERY

James Shaffer was arrested and fined twelve dollars and costs in Justice of Peace Mann's Court, Wednesday, for choking his step-daughter. The two got into a quarrel and resorted to physical violence. Shaffer pleaded guilty and the sentence followed.

MRS. WEER BURIED SUNDAY

Mrs. Weer passed away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Geo. Bennett, of this city, Friday night following a long illness. The funeral was held Sunday at the M. E. Church, Rev. Brownlow officiated. The choir sang "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere" "Nearer My God to Thee," and "Saved by Grace," which were the favorite hymns of the deceased, and these together with the many helpful words spoken by Rev. Brownlow and the beautiful floral offerings will long be remembered.

Sabia Ann Defields was born near London, Canada, July 12th, 1845, being at the time of her death, Sept. 3, 1915, 70 years 1 month and 23 days old. She was united in marriage to John Weer of London, Canada, in the year 1862, residing in London, until 1894, then moving to St. John, Mich., where she made her home, until about seven years ago when she came to live with her daughter, Mrs. Geo. Bennett, of Alma, Mich.

Besides her daughter, she leaves a husband and one son, John Weer, of Clinton County, Mich., with other relatives and friends to mourn their loss.

Early in life she united with the Methodist church and since that time has lived a beautiful Christian life. During all the days of her suffering she never grew discouraged. It was an inspiration to talk with her, and to see how patient and kind she always was.

We loved her much.
But, God loved her more,
And took her to the shining shore.

WILL APPEAL CASE

In the suit brought by C. B. Porter against C. A. Sawkins, who is doing business in the name of the C. A. Sawkins Piano Company, for the removal of said company from his building, judgment was rendered September 4th in favor of the plaintiff. Mr. Sawkins has appealed the case to the Circuit Court. It will probably be listed on the October calendar.

PROMINENT ALMA PEOPLE WED

Miss Edith McIntosh And George W. Fink Married Saturday Morning

A very pretty home wedding was solemnized at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm McIntosh on East Downie street, Saturday morning at nine o'clock when their daughter Miss Edith was united in marriage to Geo. W. Fink, an Arcadia township farmer living two miles west and a mile and a half south of Alma. Only the immediate members of the family were present.

The house was beautifully decorated with pink and white astors. Mrs. Dorland Smith acted in the capacity of bridesmaid and Mr. Dorland Smith was best man. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Waidelich of the Lutheran church of Clare, the simple ring service being used.

A two-course wedding breakfast was served after the ceremony. The party then left by car for Crystal where they spent the week end. Mr. and Mrs. Fink will live on the former's farm in the future.

Mrs. Fink has lived in Alma for the past three years, moving with her parents from Emerson township where they owned a large farm. She assisted her father in the grocery store which he conducted on East Superior street. During her short stay here she has gained numerous friends. The groom is a well known and popular young Arcadia farmer whose family he has many admirers and friends. The wedding was the culmination of a romance lasting nearly two years.

GET YOUR HUNTING LICENSES OF "CHARLEY"

Charles Murphy, assistant at Rhodes' drug store has been authorized by the State Game Warden of Lansing, to issue hunting licenses in Alma. These will be blankie license for everything except deer.

It was found at Ithaca that the largest number of applications for hunting licenses were coming from Alma parties. It was the cause of much inconvenience for local hunters so that the state official has appointed Mr. Murphy to have charge of that work in this city.

CARD OF THANKS

We desire to thank our friends and neighbors, also members of the M. E. church, who so kindly extended their aid and sympathy at the death of our beloved mother. signed:
F. W. Thornton and wife.
G. L. Thornton,
Mrs. F. W. Nicholson.

GOOD HEALTH WEEK PLANS UNDER WAY

Committees Appointed And Plans Perfected For Novel Week in October

TO HOLD 1ST MEETING HERE

Many Prominent Gratiot County People Enlisted In Move to Make Healthier Living

Local evidence of the nation wide desire for health betterment is not wanting if the interest manifested in the coming Good Health Week of Gratiot county is any criterion. McClure of the State Board of Health met with the officers and various committees of the Gratiot County Good Health Society at Alma, last Friday night and completed the details of the program. Five days will be devoted to the consideration of the questions pertaining to the improvement of the health of the citizens of Gratiot county. Doctor A. S. Warthin, head of the department of Pathology in the medical college of the University of Michigan will give the opening address Sunday afternoon October 3rd. At that time he will give his famous lecture, "The Crime Against the Boy." Doctor Warthin is a brilliant speaker and his exposition of the subject is unsurpassed in America to-day. Doctor Elsie Pratt, dean of women at the University of Michigan, will address the women on this date, also. It is planned to have a lecturer each afternoon and evening. Both of these lecturers come representative of the University Extension Course. Preceding each lecture there will be a short but delightful musical program. The full program will appear in a subsequent issue of this paper. In one respect this movement on the part of the citizens of Gratiot county is distinctive in that a permanent organization is planned. A committee is now hard at work with this end in view. The funds necessary for the success of this enterprising project are already in hand and it cannot be stated too early that absolutely no charge will be made for admittance nor will any contributions be taken up.

This year it was thought advisable to hold the First Annual Health Week in Alma. Next year St. Louis or Ithaca will be the seat of similar activities.

This movement certainly deserves the hearty support and cooperation of every individual in the county.

The following are committees and their personnel.

PUBLICITY

C. F. Brown, Chairman, Alma; F. M. Vandercook, St. Louis; C. M. Yerington, St. Louis; Fred Moffett, Breckenridge; J. N. McCall, Ithaca; Editor Middleton Republican; J. N. Nichols, Riverdale; J. Sartor, Alma; Mrs. Ralph Miller, Middleton, Jack Moble, Riverdale; J. F. Sartor, Alma; Mrs. Supt. of Schools, Pompeii; Dr. F. C. O'Neill, Middleton; H. Potter, County School Com.; Dr. A. R. Wheeler, St. Louis; Mr. Collier, Elwell; Ralph Olmstead, Elwell; Charles Murphy; Rev. Father Mulvey; All physicians and dentists in county, all teachers, township health officials and all pastors.

PROGRAM

Mrs. Bahlke, Mrs. Shepherd, Supt. Schultz, Mrs. King, Dr. Brainerd.

BUILDING

Supt. Schultz, Chairman; Mrs. Bahlke, Mr. Weese.

MUSIC

Charles Ward, Chairman; Sadie Messenger, John Chick, Hira Moore, Prof. Veatch, Miss Mae Jones.

COMMITTEE ON ESSAYS

Supt. Schultz, Chairman; Supt. of Schools, Ithaca; County School Com. Potter; Supt. of Schools, St. Louis; Supt. of Schools, Sumner; Supt. of Schools, Breckenridge.

ENTERTAINMENT

Mr. Francis King, Mrs. W. A. Bahlke, chairman.

EXHIBIT COMMITTEE

Dr. Wheeler, St. Louis, Chairman; Dr. Hall, Pompeii; Dr. E. A. Bagley, Alma.

COMMITTEE ON PERMANENT ORGANIZATION

Carl Washburn, Chairman; C. G. Rhodes, D. L. Johnson, W. A. Barstow, E. A. Foust, Mrs. Victor Shepherd, Mrs. Francis King.

USHERS

Miss Olive Smith, Head of Camp Fire Girls; Charles Murphy, Head of Boy Scouts.

BETTER BABIES

E. L. Lamb, Chairman; and for assistants all physicians in the county. Horace Maynard of Charlotte, Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge R.A.M. will give a school of instruction.

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